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Instances of breach of jail discipline.

* 4 Q.—Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there have been instances of breach of jail discipline and rules from March to October 1930, and, if so, how many ;

(*b*) what was the punishment meted out in each case ;

(*c*) as a result of such punishment or subsequent to it, how many of those who were subject to punishment received medical aid for bruises, or bodily injury ; the duration of such aid ;

(*d*) what was the weight of these prisoners prior to and subsequent to such punishments ; and

(*e*) the number of apologies received from such punished prisoners ?

A.—(*a*) to (*e*) The Government have no information.

Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja :—" With reference to clauses (*a*) to (*e*), may I know whether it is not the usual procedure to keep the Government informed about these important matters ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" I am afraid the hon. Member is referring to a completely different question."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" Will the hon. the Law Member ascertain whether all the lady prisoners are lodged in the Bellary jail ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" All the women prisoners are not lodged in the Bellary jail."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" May I know whether the hon. Law Member will call for the information asked for in clause (*a*) ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" I am sorry that I cannot. For, the immense trouble that will be involved in the collection of these figures will not bear any proportion to the probable advantage that may be derived therefrom. My hon. Friend refers to eight months, from March to October, and during that period there were thousands of prisoners in jails, and it is impossible to collect the information without extraordinary labour being spent upon that collection."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" I should like to know only the number of instances of breaches of jail discipline. I hope the hon. the Law Member will be able to give that information."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" I am sorry I cannot."

Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—" With reference to answer to clause (*a*) that the Government have no information, I want to know whether that answer is correct, since in question 2 a case of breach of discipline has been brought to the notice of the Government ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Instances of breaches of jail discipline are not ordinarily reported to Government. It is only very serious breaches of discipline like the one referred to in question 2 that are so reported. "

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Rao Bahahur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know how many serious cases like the one referred to in question 2 have been till now reported to the Government ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Notice. "

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I understand that breach of jail discipline is rather the rule than the exception. Am I correct ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, Sir. "

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Am I to understand that Government have no information at all about these things ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No. The Government have no information; if they had any information, they would have readily placed it on the table of the House."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know whether the Government can give the information by ordering the staff of the several jails to send returns of breaches of discipline ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I have already answered that question."

Mr. S. N. DORAI RAJA :—" With reference to clause (*e*) of the question, may I know whether Government will call for the information since that is rather important and since such cases are not too many to involve immense labour."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not know whether my friend has in his mind when he puts this supplementary question the case of the so-called political prisoners. If it is so, I shall be glad to collect the information."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Supposing I mention now here that the question refers to political prisoners, will the hon. the Law Member give the information ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" That will depend upon the question which I receive."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" I put the same question as in the paper."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I want the wording of the question."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" The words are here. (Pointing to the printed list of questions.)"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I can't answer a hypothetical question."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Will not the collection of information regarding clause (*e*) also involve much labour ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No. If it is confined, according to Mr. Dorai Raja's question, to political prisoners."

Mr ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know whether Government find any purpose in ascertaining that information ? "

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" If it is useful, as is said by Mr. Dorai Raja, I am ready to supply it."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I know if the Government make distinction between political prisoners and ordinary prisoners in the matter of breach of discipline ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Government make no such distinction."

Hunger-strike in jails from March to October 1930.

*5 Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what was the number of prisoners that resorted to hunger-strike from March to October 1930 ;

(b) the reason for such hunger-strike ;

(c) the jails in which such hunger-strike took place ;

(d) the class of prisoners amongst whom hunger-strike was resorted to ;

(e) the duration of each strike ; and

(f) how each case ended ?

A.—The information has been called for.

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether information is not available at least from one jail, the Madras Penitentiary ?

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" With reference to that, I know there was one case of hunger-strike lasting for two days or so. But the question refers to hunger-strikes in the jails throughout the Presidency."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, papers publish that apologies have been received from so and so, and so and so. And so is it not desirable . . . "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Order, order."

Settlement

Resettlement of the Godavaris and Kistna districts.

*6 Q.—Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether Government have passed or decided to pass orders giving effect to the recommendations of the Special Settlement Officer and the Board of Revenue concerning the resettlement in the East and West Godavari districts and the Kistna district ?

A.—In G.O. No. 405, Revenue, dated 26th February 1929, which has been placed at the disposal of the Press, the Government passed orders on those proposals of the Special Settlement Officer which related to matters other than the revision of the rates of assessment and water cess. The revision of these rates is still under the consideration of the Government.